Plans for structural changes in CIL

†1030. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a plan which entails structural changes in Coal India Limited to make it a world-class company;

(b) if so, the types of changes to be brought about in its structure; and

(c) the measures being taken by Government to increase availability of coal in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) and (b) The Expert Committee constituted in the Ministry of Coal to draw a road map for coal sector is looking into the issue of "Restructuring of CIL to make it a world class company". The Committee's report in this regard is awaited.

(c) The Government has taken the following steps to increase coal availability:-

(i) Allotment of coal mining blocks for captive end use; 97 blocks have already been allotted to different parties for captive use.

(ii) Revision of coal mining policy - State Governments have been allowed to undertake coal mining without any restriction of "Isolated small pockets".

(iii) 73 coal projects, including expansion/extension projects, at an estimated investment of Rs. 9920.84 crores, with an ultimate capacity of 149.185 million tonnes per year, have been sanctioned during Tenth Plan period and are being developed for increase in coal production.

(iv) Coal import has been placed under Open General Licence.

(v) Improvement in equipment utilization.

(vi) Timely implementation of projects.

(vii) Mechanization/modernization of existing mines.

(viii) All new mines being planned with mechanization.

(ix) Increasing productivity in both underground and open cast mines.

(x) Emergency coal production has been planned for increasing production in existing mines/projects.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.